

**TWO NEW SYNONYMIES: *ALABAMEUBRIA*, BROWN,
A JUNIOR SYNONYM OF *DICRANOPSELAPHUS*
AND *ALABAMEUBRIA STARKI*, A SYNONYM OF
DICRANOPSELAPHUS VARIEGATUS
(COLEOPTERA: PSEPHENIDAE)¹,**

Cheryl B. Barr², Paul J. Spangler³

ABSTRACT: Two synonymies are proposed: *Alabameubria* Brown (1980), a junior synonym of *Dicranopselaphus* Guérin-Ménéville (1861); and *Alabameubria starki* Brown (1980), a junior synonym of *Dicranopselaphus variegatus* Horn (1880). Lectotype and paralectotype designations are made for Horn's two syntypes of *D. variegatus*.

Several years ago we became aware of a problem in synonymy involving the cubriid names *Dicranopselaphus variegatus* Horn (1880) and *Alabameubria starki* Brown (1980). We planned to propose the synonymies in a revision of *Dicranopselaphus* Guérin-Ménéville (1861), which we have in preparation. However, we report the following synonymies now in order to have the correct name, *Dicranopselaphus variegatus* Horn (1880), available for use in the forthcoming edition (3rd) of *An Introduction to the Aquatic Insects of North America* edited by Merritt and Cummins.

Genus *Dicranopselaphus* Guérin-Ménéville

Dicranopselaphus Guérin-Ménéville, 1861:531.

Alabameubria Brown, 1980:188; type species: *Alabameubria starki* Brown, by original designation. NEW SYNONYMY.

***Dicranopselaphus variegatus* Horn**

Dicranopselaphus variegatus Horn, 1880:97; lectotype designated below.

Alabameubria starki Brown, 1980:188. NEW SYNONYMY

The following is a brief account of the circumstances that led to our conclusions that *Alabameubria* Brown is a synonym of *Dicranopselaphus* Guérin-Ménéville and *Alabameubria starki* Brown is synonymous with *Dicranopselaphus variegatus*.

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² Essig Museum of Entomology, College of Natural Resources, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720.

³ Department of Entomology, U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560.

One distinctive larval specimen of a false water penny (eubriine) was collected in Alabama by B.P. Stark in 1973 and sent to H.P. Brown. For several years after the discovery of the unique larva, Brown and others periodically sought additional larvae and possible associated adults and a second larva was collected at a different site in Alabama by T. King and C.D. Guthrie in 1978. In 1980, Brown published his descriptions of the genus *Alabameubria* and the type species, *A. starki* based on the two larvae. On May 20 & 21, 1988, we visited the type locality of *A. starki* at the confluence of Mill Creek and the tributary Murphy Creek, which is about 1 km southwest of Blount Springs, Blount County, Alabama. Barr collected five adult specimens of *Dicranopselaphus variegatus* by beating riparian vegetation overhanging the creek, and Spangler found three live, mature, dry, eubriine larvae attached above the water line to the vertical sides of rocks in shallow water at the stream edge. Spangler also found a fourth larva on a rock about 1-1.5 m from the margin of Mill Creek. To this time, no adult specimens that would be those of *A. starki* have been collected.

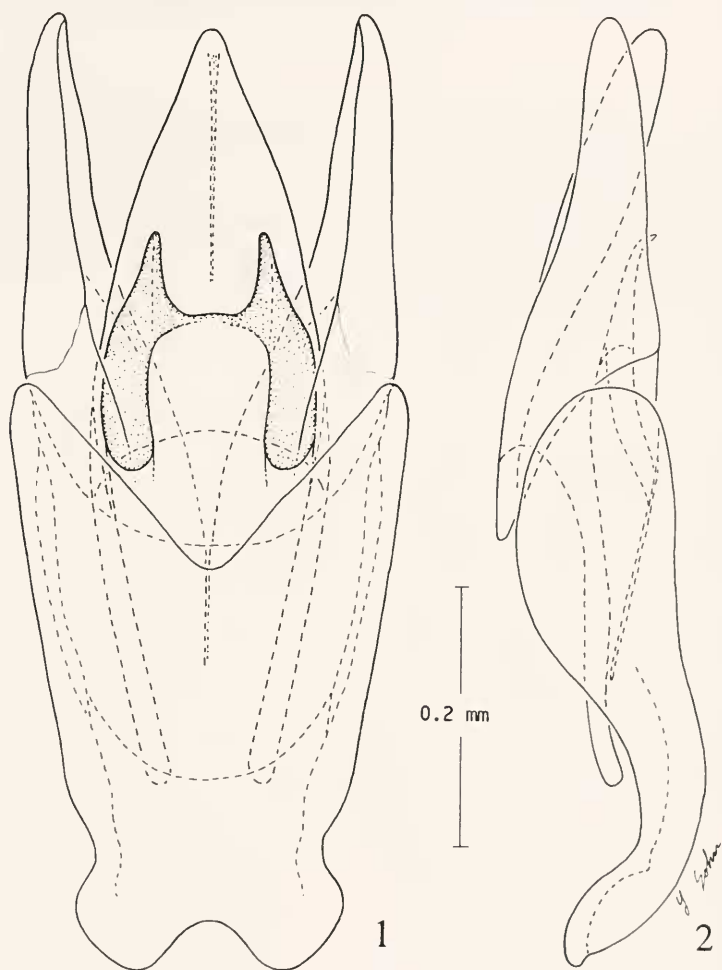
Although we were not successful in our attempt to rear our larvae to the adult stage, we are confident they represent the larva of *Dicranopselaphus variegatus* – by association and elimination of the known larva of *Ectopria*. The larvae we identify as *Dicranopselaphus variegatus* are congeneric and conspecific with the holotype and paratype of *Alabameubria starki*, which becomes a junior synonym of *Dicranopselaphus*.

The larvae we identify as the eubriine *Dicranopselaphus variegatus* are distinct from the larva of *Ectopria*, the only other eubriine genus we collected at the site. For illustrations of the larva of *Ectopria* see Brown, 1991, Fig. 34.413.

In order to verify the identification of our adult specimens as *Dicranopselaphus variegatus* Horn, we borrowed Horn's two male syntypes from the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University: one specimen is labeled: Md / LectoTYPE 3277 / *Dicranopselaphus variegatus* Horn; the other is labeled: Ill. / Para-Type 3277. We do not find the lectotype and paratype designations validated by publication and believe the labels were added to the specimens, provisionally, by S. Henshaw as was his custom. We here designate the specimen from Maryland as the lectotype (as it was previously labeled) and the one from Illinois as the lectoparatype and have added appropriate labels to each.

The genitalia of the lectotype was damaged slightly before we extracted it; the apex of the right paramere and a small piece of the median lobe are missing. In all other aspects, the genitalia of the lectotype is identical to the genitalia (Figs 1 & 2, by Y.T. Sohn) of one of our specimens from Blount Springs, Alabama. The lectotype is glued to a point and the cleared dissection is in glycerine in a microvial attached to the pin.

Our adult specimens from Blount Springs, Alabama, are virtually identical externally to the type specimens.



Figs. 1 & 2.—*Dicranopselaphus variegatus* Horn, ♂ genitalia: 1, Ventral view; 2, Lateral view.

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